



# Arbitrator News

Monthly newsletter for the Juvenile Arbitration Program of  
Aiken, Bamberg and Barnwell Counties — December 2020

J. Strom Thurmond, Jr., Solicitor  
Serena McDaniel, Assistant Solicitor  
Nina Spinelli, Director

Newsletter Date: December 2020

## Did You Know:

In 2015, more than 42.2 million Americans lived in households that were struggling against hunger, according to new data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Economic Research Service.

The 2015 numbers represent a significant decrease from 2014, with the rate declining from 15.4 to 13.4 percent.

A positive development is that the rate of households with food-insecure children dropped below pre-recession levels and in fact is the lowest in any year since this survey began in 1998.

For additional information, visit:  
<https://www.scjustice.org/>

## Happy Thanksgiving Arbitrators!

November has been a busy month for the Juvenile Arbitration Program. We enjoyed spending time together during our Volunteer Appreciation Lunch and learning more about Barnwell State Park during our Community Service Day.

Even with all the changes happening this year, we still have so much to be thankful for in the work we do for our youth and families.

Thank you for all you do for JAP.

Happy Thanksgiving!



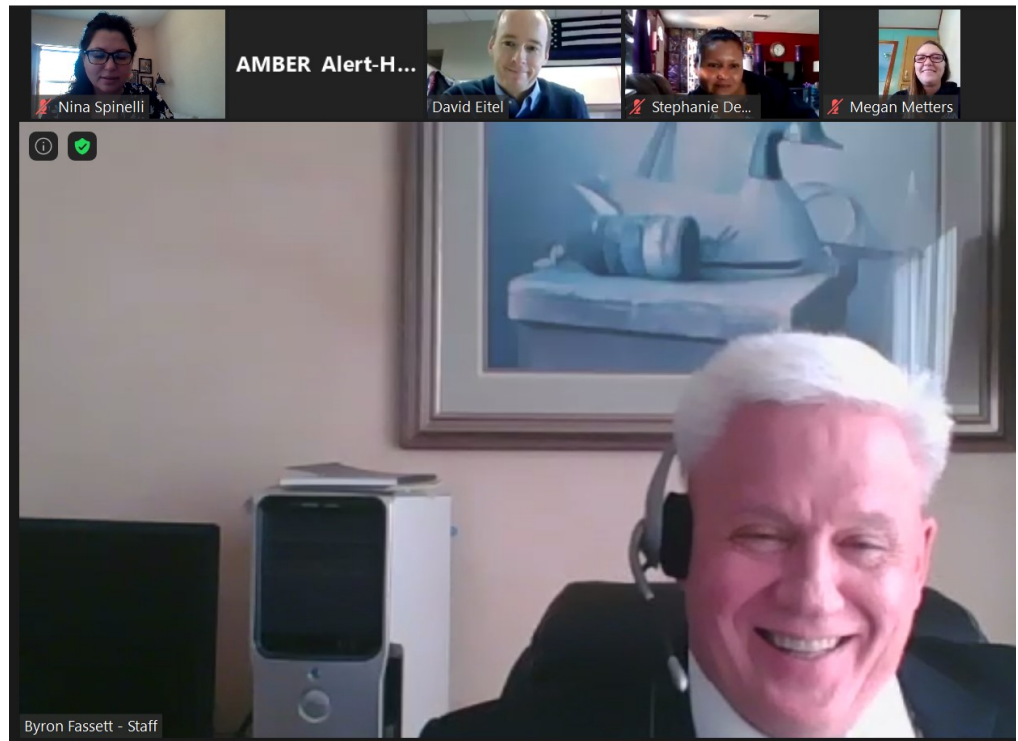
## Community Service Site



Have you visited the Price Center yet? If not, stop on by! They are a teen and senior center and offer a computer lab and great interactive programs for our kids. Certain events will also provide community service hours for our teens.

## Missing Children Training

On November 16 Nina Spinelli with the Juvenile Arbitration Program was able to participate with the Community Response to High-Risk Missing and Sex Trafficking Children Training hosted by the National Criminal Justice Training Center.



### Did You Know:

The recidivism rate for the Juvenile Arbitration Program for 2017-2018 (most current stats) has fallen to **4.1%** for the entire state.

For additional information, please visit:  
<https://djj.sc.gov/>

## Library Card Challenge



One popular sanction to help keep kids focused on education and reading is for them to obtain a library card and learn about services provided at their local library.

Children who read 1,000,000 words a year are in the top two percent of reading achievement. Reading is the fastest way to build vocabulary. Currently, 45 million Americans are functionally illiterate and cannot read above a fifth-grade level. Arbitration is working hard to ensure children have library access.



## Community Drive

The Blessing Boxes of Aiken was started as a volunteer-driven, community initiative by Melanie Inabinet and Jane Page Thompson.

Their enthusiasm led to a county-wide project to bring boxes to every community that would support it. Each box contains an array of non-perishable products, canned and boxed foods, bottled drinks and so much more.

The Juvenile Arbitration Program is working hard over the months of November and December to collect items for the Blessing Box.

Our goal is collect **100** items for the Blessing Box and Serena McDaniel and Nina Spinelli started the first round of collections.



## Christmas in Hopelands—Tuesday December 15, 2020



## Teen Maze



Youth in Arbitration participated with the Teen Maze on October 30 and learned about the real care infant simulator, sobriety tests, money tips and healthy Relationships.





## Why Choose Juvenile Diversion? - National Juvenile Defender Center

# CAUTION: Collateral Consequences

## Obstructing the Pathway to Young People's Success

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For young people involved in the court system, the path to their future success is paved with access to school, employment, and housing. But the collateral consequences of juvenile court involvement create barriers to each of those factors.

### EDUCATION

- Juvenile court involvement can result in young people being suspended or expelled from school.
- Young people can be denied reenrollment in their local school because of their juvenile record.
- Many colleges, technical schools, and trade programs may deny entry because of juvenile record information on background checks.

### EMPLOYMENT

- Employers may deny employment to young people because of juvenile record information on background checks.
- Young people may not be granted an occupational license because of their juvenile record.
- Otherwise confidential juvenile record information may appear on FBI background checks.

### HOUSING

- A young person's involvement in juvenile court can impact their and their family's ability to maintain or obtain housing.
- Public housing authorities can bar families from public housing based upon a young person's juvenile record.
- Landlords may deny housing to young people and their families because of juvenile record information on background checks.

## Barnwell State Park—Community Service Day



Thank you to Cari Henderson, Stephanie Halling, Jasmine Williams and the Park Rangers at Barnwell State Park who made our Community Service Day on October 30 a great event. Youth had the chance to learn more about the activities and history of a park that is right in their own community.





## Community Resource



### Interactive Screening Program

[hope.connectsyou.org](http://hope.connectsyou.org)

No matter how challenging the times, you are not alone in South Carolina. Whatever you're struggling with - family pressures, work, relationship issues, grief, stress or financial concerns - it is easy to get overwhelmed without an idea of where to turn for support. We understand that many people are reluctant to seek help for mental health concerns. The South Carolina Department of Mental Health (SC DMH) is partnering with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention to provide the Interactive Screening Program - a safe and easy service that allows you to anonymously take a Self-Check Questionnaire and connect with a professional counselor in the State of South Carolina who can provide guidance, support, and resources to help connect you with mental health and addiction services. This service is now available to all residents of South Carolina 18 years of age or older.

**Getting started is as easy as...click, connect, and chat!**

#### CLICK



Go to  
[hope.connectsyou.org](http://hope.connectsyou.org)  
to get started

#### CONNECT



Take the Self-Check  
Questionnaire.  
  
Receive feedback and  
support from a program  
counselor.

#### CHAT



Exchange messages with  
the counselor - ask  
questions and learn about  
available resources and  
services.

### Key Principles of ISP

**Complete Anonymity:** Your User ID will be unique to you and can be anything you choose. Your identity will not be known to the counselor unless you choose to share it.

**Personalized Contact with Program Counselors:** Instead of computerized feedback, you will receive a personal response to your questionnaire from a program counselor.

**Connection and Support:** Counselors will respond to the experiences you share and provide you with the support you need - whether that be someone to listen or to help connect you to other services.

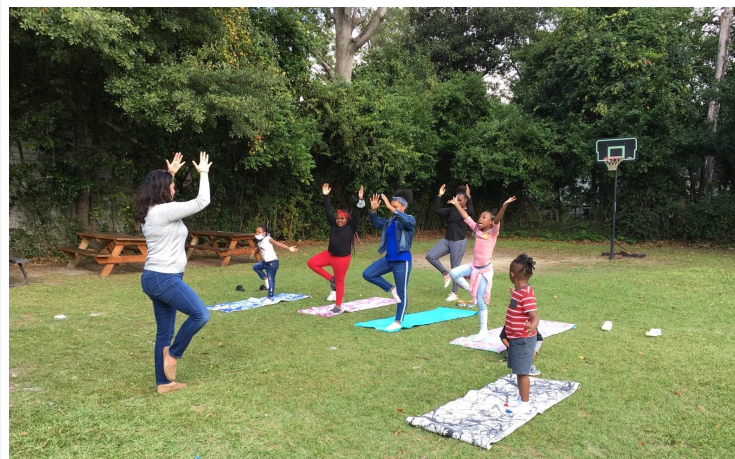
**Interactive Engagement:** You will have the opportunity to exchange messages with the counselor through the ISP website - ask questions, get feedback and support.

[hope.connectsyou.org](http://hope.connectsyou.org)

**DMH** South Carolina  
Department of  
Mental Health



## Red Ribbon Week



Red Ribbon Week 2020 spanned October 23-31. Red Ribbon Week started after the death of DEA Special Agent Enrique Camarena in 1985.

As a tribute, friend Henry Lozano and Congressman Duncan Hunter created "Camarena Clubs" and the wearing of a red ribbon to show their oppositions to drugs.

On October 29, Samantha Pace (Clemson SNAP-ED), Tonya Avery (Aiken Center for Drug and Alcohol Services), along with Nina Spinelli and Jasmine Williams (Juvenile Arbitration) hosted a Healthy Body/ Healthy Mind event at Brothers and Sisters of Aiken.

The class focused on healthy eating for a healthy brain, self-reliance skills through yoga, and, refusal skills. Thank you to Melody Clark with Healthy Blues for donating yoga mats for the class.

According to DAODAS, underage drinking costs South Carolina \$1 billion per year – \$2,309 for each young person in our state. 71% of 9th -12th graders in South Carolina have tried alcohol and 35% of these students took their first drink, beyond just a few sips, before age 13.



## SAMHSA Community Resource



### Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for Children: What is it, who is it for, and how can **Youth Providers** help?



How can SSI  
for children  
help?

- Stabilizing income for unaccompanied youth
- Income that can be used for housing or other supportive services
- Health insurance coverage (Medicaid)



Who is  
eligible?

- Children (birth to turning age 18) with a physical or mental impairment that causes marked or severe functional limitations
- Children, youth, and families with low income and resources
- Note: If a child is unmarried, lives with their parents, and their parents do not receive SSI, a portion of the parents' income and resources may be considered



How can I  
contribute  
and help a  
youth access  
resources?

- Identify youth who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness who have a serious mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder
- Identify staff to complete the SOAR Online Course: Child Curriculum and assist youth with completing the SSI application using the SOAR model
- If your agency is not able to fully complete the SOAR process, assist the applicant with gathering evidence to support their claim such as medical evidence (e.g., hospital or clinic records and psychiatric evaluations), arrange for additional testing and evaluation as needed, and provide written documentation of the youth's limitations and functioning as well as the supportive services you provide
- Collaborate with the State and Local SOAR Leads, SSA, and DDS



What  
resources  
are  
available?

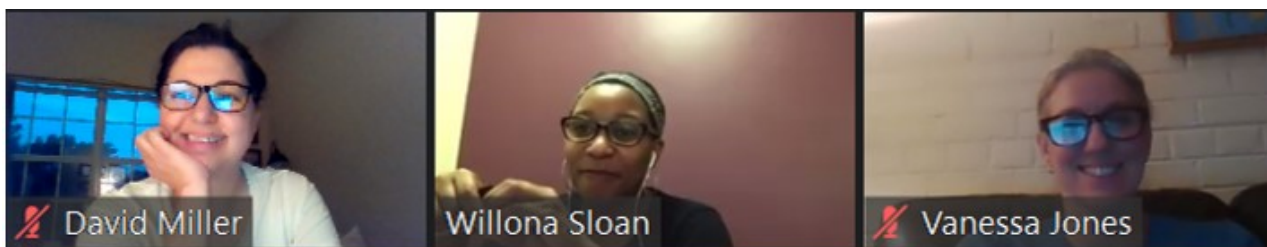
- Understanding SSI for Children:  
<https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-child-ussi.htm>
- Youth MOVE National: <https://youthmovenational.org/>
- SOAR Directory:  
<https://soarworks.prainc.com/content/contact-us> <https://soarworks.prainc.com/directory>
- SOAR Online Course: Child Curriculum: The course is a great resource for providers who are interested in learning about the Social Security Disability process or are interested in assisting children and families with applying for SSI  
<https://soarworks.prainc.com/course/soar-child-curriculum>

The SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) Technical Assistance (TA) Center is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and is a national program designed to increase access to the disability income benefit programs administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA) for eligible adults and children who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a serious mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder.

Connect with your state SOAR contacts: <https://soarworks.prainc.com/directory>

Contact SOAR: [soar@prainc.com](mailto:soar@prainc.com) | (518) 439-7415 x2 | <https://soarworks.prainc.com/>

## National Portrait Gallery



On November 10, the Smithsonian Institute hosted a virtual writing hour at the National Portrait Gallery. Their goal is to create a virtual space where writers can create, connect, and draw inspiration from the Portrait Gallery's online exhibitions on Google Arts and Culture.

The SI provided writing prompts, based on displays in the gallery and participants wrote for 30 minutes and ended with a brief discussion and reading. This is a great sanction for older youth (17 and older).







# Who are Drug Endangered Children?

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*National DEC defines drug endangered children as children who are at risk of suffering physical or emotional harm as a result of illegal drug use, possession, manufacturing, cultivation, or distribution.*

*They may also be children whose caretaker's substance misuse interferes with the caretaker's ability to parent and provide a safe and nurturing environment.*



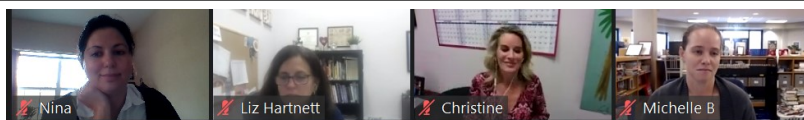
Get more information at:

National DEC website [www.nationaldec.org](http://www.nationaldec.org)

DEC Roadmap and Toolkit:

<https://www.nationaldec.org/road>

## Project Ready



Nina Spinelli with the Juvenile Arbitration Program is currently in the Project Ready Cohort.

The Project Ready curriculum is the culmination of three years of work by a team of educators, library staff, and youth.

The Project Ready site hosts a series of no-cost, online professional development modules for school and public youth services librarians, library administrators, and others interested in improving their knowledge about **race and racism, racial equity, and culturally sustaining pedagogy**.

The primary focus of the Project READY curriculum is on improving relationships with, services to, and resources **for youth of color and Native youth**.

For additional information on Project Ready and to learn more about joining a cohort, please visit: <https://ready.web.unc.edu/>



Sanction Opportunity



# IMPACT OF INCARCERATION TOUR

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DEC 11, 2020 | 5 - 6:00 P.M.

REMOTE SANCTION (ZOOM)

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TO REGISTER A YOUTH, PLEASE E-MAIL  
[NSPINELLI@AIKENCOUNTYSC.GOV](mailto:NSPINELLI@AIKENCOUNTYSC.GOV)

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SEE YOU THERE!

## Boo Bash—Community Service Sanction



On Halloween, Eat Smart Move More and Juvenile Arbitration participated with the Boo Bash. The event focused on social distancing and mask-wearing. Samantha Pace with Clemson SNAP-ED and Nina Spinelli with Juvenile Arbitration manned the Eat Smart Move More Table at the Boo Bash held at four City of Aiken PRT locations, including the Price Center.





## Sanction Opportunity

# WHERE TO FIND HELP

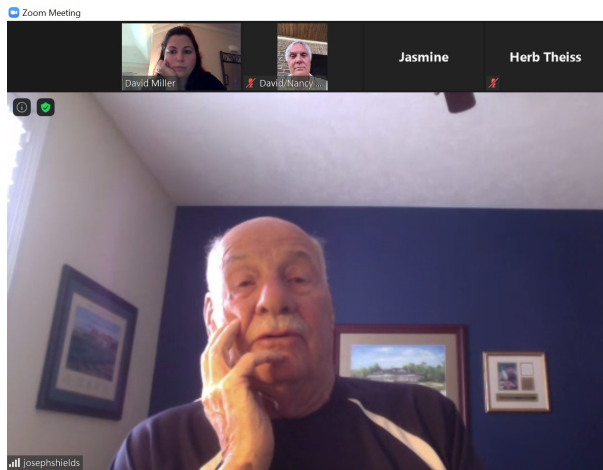
Life Skills Class

WED JANUARY 13, 2021

4:30 – 5:30 PM

Join the Juvenile Arbitration Program and Help  
Line 2-1-1 for an Online Life Skills Class. To  
register, e-mail [nspinellie@aikencountysc.gov](mailto:nspinellie@aikencountysc.gov)

## Mandated Reporter Training



On November 9, 2020 Nina Spinelli with the Juvenile Arbitration Program hosted an online training on Mandated Reporting in South Carolina. South Carolina law requires that certain professionals report suspected cases of child abuse or neglect, because they have unique opportunities to observe and interact with children. To learn more about Mandated Reporting, please visit: <https://dss.sc.gov/abuseneglect/mandated-reporters/>





## Holiday Lunch



JOIN JUVENILE ARBITRATION FOR A  
DUTCH-TREAT

# CHRISTMAS LUNCH

DECEMBER 14, 2020  
11:30 A.M. AT OUBACK IN AIKEN - PLEASE  
RSVP TO [NSPINELLI@AIKENCOUNTYSC.GOV](mailto:NSPINELLI@AIKENCOUNTYSC.GOV)

Everyone is invited to attend

## Volunteer Lunch





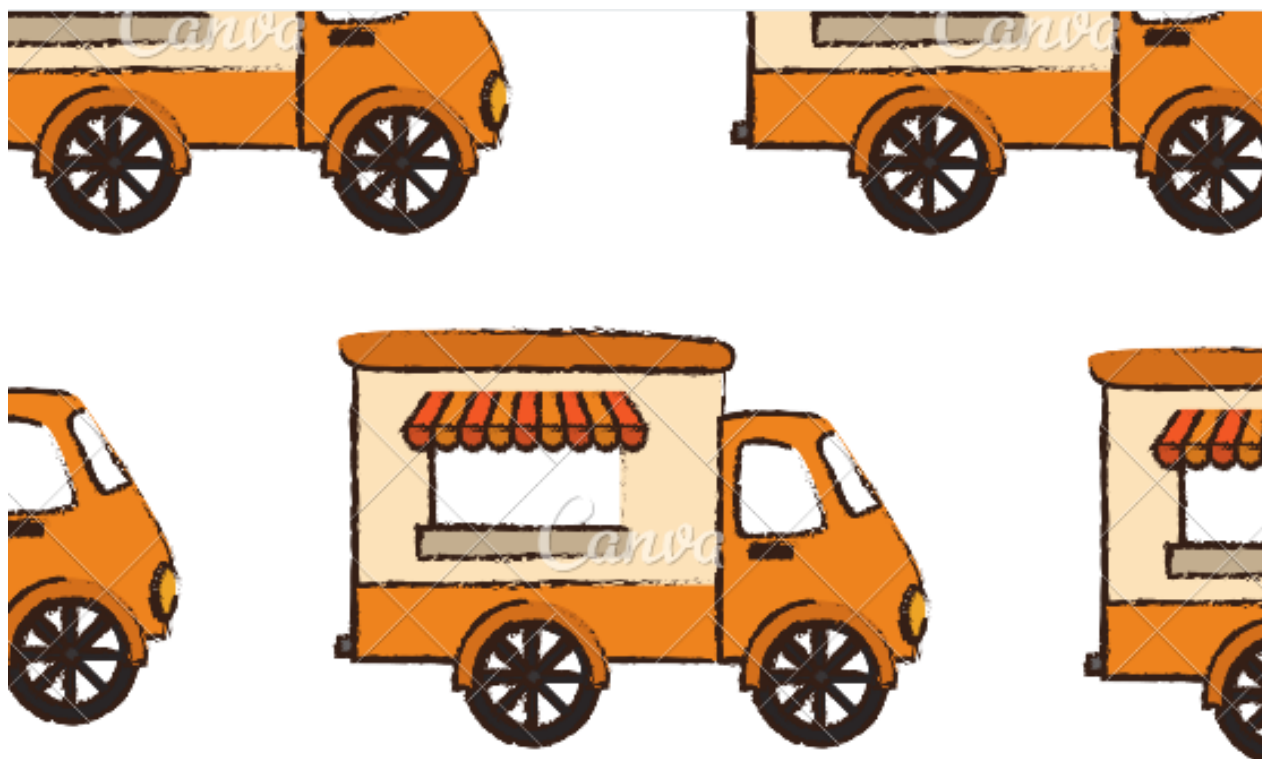
## Volunteer Lunch



The Juvenile Arbitration Program held their annual Volunteer Lunch on November 18, 2020. Thank you to Solicitor-Elect Bill Weeks, Lt. Vicky Gaskins with the Aiken County Sheriff's Office, Stacey Bryant with the Department of Juvenile Justice and Melody Clark with Healthy Blues for presenting.



## Cooking Matters Sanction



# COOKING MATTERS

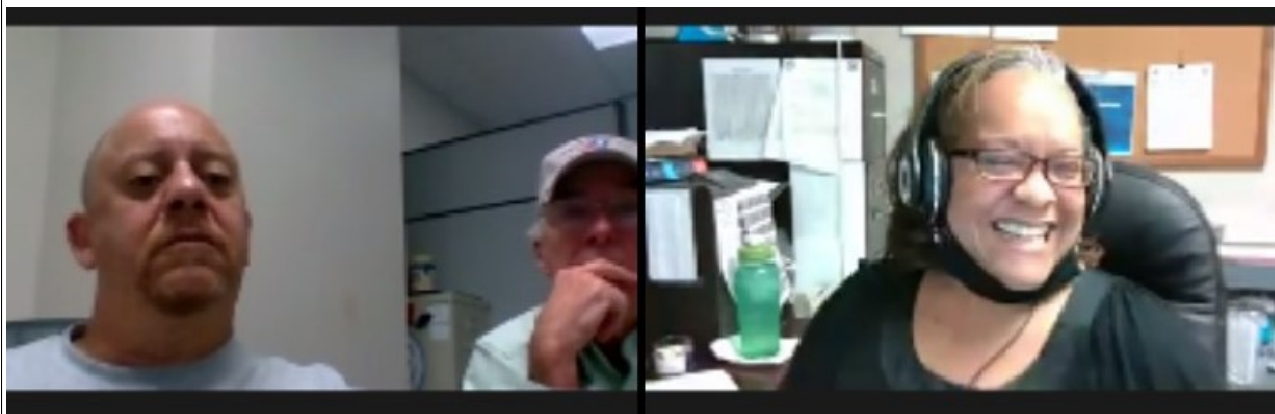
You are invited to a Cooking Matters Mini-Class  
hosted by Clemson SNAP-ED

**Friday January 29, 2021 - 10:00 a.m - 11:30 a.m.**  
**Price Center - 841 Edgefield Ave, NW**

To register a child, please e-mail  
[nspinelli@aikencountysc.gov](mailto:nspinelli@aikencountysc.gov)



## Youth ChalleNGe Academy



The Youth ChalleNGe Academy provides youth from ages 16-18 years old a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to earn their GED, gain leadership and academic skills, and work to be the best version of themselves. The Academy is hard-at-work getting ready for the next round of cadets in January 2021.



Nina Spinelli



Wendy Jackson

**SECOND CIRCUIT  
JUVENILE  
ARBITRATION  
PROGRAM**

211 York Street, NE  
Aiken, SC 29801

2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit  
P.O. Drawer 3368  
Aiken, SC 29802  
[nspinelli@aikencountysc.gov](mailto:nspinelli@aikencountysc.gov)

J. Strom Thurmond, Jr.  
Solicitor  
Serena McDaniel, Assistant Solicitor  
Nina Spinelli, Director

Calendar of Events

Aiken State Park:

- December 2

Youth Mental Health

First Aid:

- December 3

Memorial Gardens Clean  
-Up Day:

- December 5

Life Skills Class:

- December 8

Volunteer Lunch:

- December 14

Christmas in Hopelands:

- December 14

**Sanction Opportunity—Food Drive**



In **South Carolina**, 600,440 people are struggling with **hunger** - and of them 178,710 are children.

Join the Juvenile Arbitration Program for a community Food Drive through the month of December. Our goal is to collect 100 non-perishable food and toiletry items to be donated to the Blessing Box.

Items may be dropped off at the Juvenile Arbitration Office.



Need a quick and educational way to entertain your child? Grab your phone and dial (803)734-1110. The State Library's new Telephone Tales storyline brings the stories to you. It's their way to encourage reading even when we are not able to visit in person.

**United States Interagency Council on Homelessness**

The number of children and youth experiencing homelessness (PreK-12) continues to rise.<sup>6</sup>

